

Message Text

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10

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 H-02 SS-15

NSC-05 /060 W

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R 132335Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8823

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, OCLR, US, CA, CU

SUBJ: CANADA-CUBAN AIR SERVICES

REF: (A) STATE 027828 AND (B) 32641

1. TCO INFORMED SLIVITZKY'S ASSISTANT FEBRUARY 11 THAT AIR CANADA WILL HAVE NO PROBLEMS BEYOND THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH NORMAL OPERATION IN OR THROUGH US AIRSPACE. INDICATED TO HIM THAT IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO THE USG IF WE COULD BE INFORMALLY ADVISED OF AIR CANADA'S PLANNED ROUTES TO CUBA, WHICH AIR CANADA WILL BE MAKING AVAILABLE TO FAA AT A LATER DATE. SLIVITZKY CALLED BACK FEBRUARY 12 TO SAY THE INFORMATION WAS NOT PRESENTLY AVAILABLE.

2. ON FEBRUARY 13, TCO BRIEFED EXTAF (LABERGE, DIRECTOR TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY DIVISION) ALONG LINES PARA 2, REF A. LABERGE DID NOT APPEAR OVERLY INTERESTED AND EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS A CUBA-U.S. PROBLEM OF NO DIRECT CONCERN TO CANADA. CANADA, HE STATED, WAS NOT ACTING ON BEHALF OF CUBA IN ANY WAY IN RELATION TO CUBANA'S OPERATIONS. TCO FULLY AGREED THAT THIS WAS A US-CUBA QUESTION BUT INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO US IN DEALING WITH A

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CUBAN APPLICATION IF WE KNEW WHAT AIR CANADA'S PLANS

WERE. WE WOULD LIKE TO APPROVE A ROUTE FOR CUBANA SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH AIR CANADA INTENDS TO FLY. THIS WOULD ENABLE US TO AVOID CUBAN CHARGES OF DISCRIMINATION. TCO ADVISED LABERGE OF STATUS OF CONVERSATIONS WITH AIR CANADA AND REQUESTED HIM INFORMALLY TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES TO ENCOURAGE AIR CANADA TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE. LABERGE FINALLY AGREED TO DO THIS, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THIS MAY REQUIRE AIR-CANADA (WHICH AT THE EARLIEST WOULD NOT OPERATE BEFORE MAY) TO HAVE TO COMMIT ITSELF TO DECISIONS PREMATURELY.

3. TCO WILL FOLLOW-UP AGAIN WITH AIR CANADA NEXT WEEK.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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